

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 MC-02 ACDA-19

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 DPW-01 OIC-04 DRC-01 /144 W

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R 171540Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8449

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6823

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFO, ICRC, LE

SUBJECT: ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS

REF: A. STATE 119953: B. STATE 120283

SUMMARY: IN DISCUSSING CONFERENCE, AND PARTICULARLY ICRC NOTE OF MAY 17 RE PRG PARTICIPATION, WITH HADDAD OF MFA, EMBOFFS DISCOVERED MFA APPARENTLY UNAWARE NOTE'S EXISTENCE AND HAVE NOT RECEIVED COPY. HADDAD SUGGESTED GOL WOULD EXPRESS NEGATIVE REACTION TO PRG PRESENCE IN REPLY ONCE NOTE IN MFA HANDS. EMBASSY PLANNING PROVIDE RELEVANT PORTIONS TEXT TO HADDAD SOONEST, BUT MEANWHILE REQUEST US MISSION GENEVA DISCUSS WITH GOL MISSION THERE TO DISCOVER WHEREABOUTS GOL COPY OF NOTE. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE RECEIVING, FOR FUTURE AMMUNITION, INFO RE ANY OTHER ARAB STATES PLANNING SEND NEGATIVE REPLIES ON ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFFS, ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL A, CALLED MORNING JUNE 17 ON KHALIL HADDAD, DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY. IN RESPONSE EMBOFF'S PRESENTATION
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RE PRG REQUEST FOR INVITATION TO CONFERENCE, HADDAD BEGAN

WITH WELL-KNOWN LEBANESE POSITION THAT IT RECOGNIZED SAIGON AND NOT PRG AND DOES NOT RPT NOT SUPPORT PARTICIPATION PRG AT CONFERENCE. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT LEBANON FOLLOWED ARAB LEAD IN VOTING (I.E., IF ALL ARAB STATES VOTED AGAINST PRG, LEBANON WOULD HAPPILY DO LIKEWISE; IF ARAB STATES DIVIDED AMONG THEMSELVES, LEBANON WOULD ABSTAIN).

2. SOON BECAME CLEAR, HOWEVER, IN COURSE CONVERSATION THAT HADDAD AND MINISTRY UNAWARE OF ICRC NOTE OF MAY 17 ASKING FOR VIEWS OF GOVTS. ON PRG INVITATION PRIOR RPT PRIOR TO CONVENING CONFERENCE. HADDAD HAD ASSUMED INITIALLY THAT WE SPEAKING OF POSSIBILITY ISSUE MIGHT ARISE FOR FORMAL VOTE DURING CONFERENCE.

3. REACTING TO EMBOFF'S EMPHASIS ON NEED FOR ALL COUNTRIES RESPOND TO ICRC NOTE PRIOR JULY 31, HADDAD INDICATED THAT LEBANON WOULD BE INCLINED PROVIDE NEGATIVE RESPONSE ON QUESTION PRG PARTICIPATION ONCE NOTE RECEIVED. EMBOFFS GOT STRONG IMPRESSION ANSWER THROUGH MEDIUM OF NOTE SEEN BY HADDAD AS GIVING GOL GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN EXPRESSING ITS TRUE FEELINGS. AT ONE POINT IN CONVERSATION, HADDAD SUGGESTED THAT LEBANON WOULD FIND ITSELF IN MORE SECURE POSITION TO TAKE NEGATIVE STANCE IF OTHER ARAB STATES (E.G., SAUDI ARABIA, JORDAN) PREPARED ALSO GO ON RECORD INNEGATIVE. WOULD APPRECIATE THEREFORE ANY INDICATIONS ON HOW OTHER ARAB STATES WILL BE ANSWERING ICRC NOTE.

4. EMBASSY WILL BE SENDING RELEVANT PORTIONS OF MAY 17 NOTE TO HADDAD IN NEXT DAY OR SO AS HE DEPARTING BEIRUT SOON TO TAKE PART IN LOS CONFERENCE IN CARACAS. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE, HOWEVER, US MISSION GENEVA CONSULTING WITH COLLEAGUES OF LEBANESE MISSION IN EFFORT DETERMINE WHEREABOUTS LEBANESE COPY OF NOTE, WHICH APPARENTLY HAS NOT REACHED MFA.
GODLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS CONTROL MEETINGS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INVITATIONS, COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATIONS, OPPOSITION TO ADMISSION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BEIRUT06823
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740157-0539
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740640/aaaabijg.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 119953; B. STATE 120283
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS
TAGS: PARM, PFOR, LE, ICRC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005